(a) whether a four-member Committee has been set up to find out whether 80 percent demolitions at Sainik Farms have been completed or the demolitions were done on paper only;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would investigate the matter and propose to take action against erring officials who have deliberately shown demolitions and paper only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment in the Building Bye-Laws

1152. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have decided to make amendments in the building Bye-laws in order to ensure that only earthquake resistant buildings are constructed in future;

(b) if so, by when such amendments are likely to be made in the building bye-laws;

(c) whether Government have decided to conduct survey of all the high rise building in the capital which are not earthquake resistant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Since building bye-laws is a State subject, any action to amend them, is to be taken by the State Government. However, the Central Goverment has formulated guidelines regarding construction of safer houses which were communicated to the State Governments in May, 1998. They have also been reminded to comply with the guidelines. This Ministry has subsequently requested the States/Union Territories for early action on the Ministry's advice. The Minister for Urban Development and poverty alleviation is also holding a meeting of all State Ministers concerned with the subject so that the matter could be reviewed at the national level and necessary impetus given for effective follow up action.

(c) and (d) Presently construction of buildings in Delhi is governed by the Building Bye-laws which take care of the structural safety of the buildings constructed / proposed to the constructed. These Building Bye-laws are regulated and implemented through various agencies like the Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council. The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty alleviation has also been emphasizing the need for strictly curbing any violation of the Building Bye-laws by any person or persons and has been stressing upon the local bodies / authorities to take action as per rules and Acts against unauthorised constructions. However, to give a greater thrust for making buildings earthquake resistant and structurally more sound prospectively, the Ministry has issued a public notice for inviting public objections and opinion. This modification proposes to make it mandatory that the structural design of foundation, masonry, timber, plain concerete etc. would be carried out taking into consideration the Indian Standards for earthquake protection of building and that the certificate of doing so would be signed by the owner and the architect.

Alternative Accommodation for Jhuggi Dwellers before Demolition

†1153. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people living in Jhuggies are made homeless every year in almost all the cities / towns of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to make such an arrangement under which the Jhuggi dwellers are made homeless only when they have been provided with alternative accommodation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Since Housing is a State subject, various State Governments are to take action to provide accommodation to jhuggi dwellers. However, the National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998, which was placed in Parliament in July, 1998 states that "it shall be obligatory for public / private sector projects to provide home-stead land and housing as per norms prescribed for those who are displaced. Rehabilitation of the displaced would be an integral part of any project."

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.